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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



**VERKHNYAYA SALDA
ICBM COMPLEX
USSR**

TCS-80735/67

NOVEMBER 1967

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TCS-80735/67

PREFACE

This report updates and supersedes TCS-80896/66, Verkhnyaya Salda ICBM Complex, USSR, 1/ the initial report in a series prepared in response to CIA Requirements C-DI5-82,972 and C-DI7-84,251 requesting detailed line drawings, to scale, of elements of the complex. The information contained herein is based on KEYHOLE photography through [REDACTED] Individual reports will be updated periodically to reflect changes observed on subsequent photography.

25X1D

VERKHNYAYA SALDA ICBM COMPLEX, USSR

The Verkhnyaya Salda ICBM Complex (Figure 1) is in the eastern foothills of the Ural Mountains, in the central interior region of Western Siberia. The complex support facility is 4.0 nm west of Verkhnyaya Salda, an industrial city in the Sverdlovsk Oblast of the Russian SFSR. The rail-to-road transfer point is at the north end of the complex support facility and the 9 launch sites are deployed to the north, with 7 of the 9 sites situated on the south bank of the winding Tagil river. The launch sites extend about 24 nm in an east-west direction and consist of 2 Type IIA, 3 Type IIB, 2 Type IIIA, and 2 Type IID sites. Other components of the complex are [REDACTED] an auxiliary support facility, and a communications facility.

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Terrain in the general vicinity of the complex, as well as on the north side of the Tagil river, is generally flat, and contains numerous swampy areas. Drainage is from west to east, and elevations range from about 800 feet on the west to about 600 feet on the east. Relative relief at each launch site is slight. The region is heavily forested but has been extensively cut over. Launch sites had to be cleared before construction could start. Several cities and large towns are in the general region of the complex, but relatively few small towns or villages.

The complex is at 58° north latitude and the seasons are typical of this northern hemisphere location. Winters are quite cold and the ground remains snow-covered from early November to mid-April. The average monthly temperature during January is about - 10°F. Summers are generally quite warm, with an average high of about 70°F during the month of July. Clouds are prevalent over the complex much of the year, ranging from a high of 85 per cent in January and October to a low of about 55 percent in February, April, June, and July.

The complex support facility and rail-to-road transfer point are served by a spur from one of the rail lines that is part of a network serving the industrial cities and mining areas north of Sverdlovsk. A spur also goes through the auxiliary support facility and terminates in a large peat-cutting area. The industrial cities and towns in the region are all joined by fair-to-good roads but, in the area of the complex, roads were non-existent until the launch sites were deployed and well-engineered roads were constructed to provide access to all components of the complex.

The Verkhnyaya Salda ICBM Complex was probably the first, after Plesetsk, to be deployed in the Soviet Union. The positioning of the launch sites along the escarpment of the Tagil river is very similar to those of the SS-6 sites along the Yemtsa river at Plesetsk. It is possible that this complex was origi-

nally planned for the SS-6 missile but, with the successful development of the more economical and easier handling SS-7 missile, it was decided to deploy that system instead. There is firm evidence that on several other occasions the Soviets have revised their deployment plans and canceled out a program after construction had started.

Construction for the complex support facility was probably started in the late winter of [REDACTED] and Launch Sites 1 and 3 (Type IIA) were started during the late spring or summer of that year. The complex was first observed in [REDACTED] on photography of very poor interpretability; the complex support facility and Launch Sites 1 and 2 could be identified by outline only, and no details were discernible. Launch Site 2 (Type IIB) was again observed on cloudy photography in [REDACTED]. At that time, it appeared to be in a midstage of construction and probably had been started about [REDACTED]. The entire complex was not observed until [REDACTED] when Launch Sites 1 and 2 were again seen and Launch Sites 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 were seen for the first time. Launch Sites 4 and 5 are Type IIB, and Launch Sites 7 and 8 are Type IIIA. These 4 sites were started during the late winter and early spring of [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] 2 Type IID launch sites were observed, which had been started about 2 months prior in [REDACTED]. The first sites were complete and, by [REDACTED] all sites at the complex were complete. Since that time, there has been no indication of additional site construction. A steady level of activity has always been maintained at the complex. Missile exercises and missiles on trailers are frequently observed at the launch sites, and vehicular traffic is always apparent along the complex main roads.

This complex is in a highly industrialized region, which restricts its expansion. Several manufacturing cities and towns are in the general vicinity, as well as numerous mining operations and peat cuttings. The numerous swamps prevalent in the area are a further limitation. It is doubtful that there will be any further deployment at this complex.

Component	Type	Negated	First Seen	Estimated Start	Completion Confirmed	Geographic Coordinates
Complex Support Facility	--	[REDACTED]				58-02N 60-24E
Launch Site 1	IIA					58-06N 60-21E
Launch Site 2	IIB					58-08N 60-16E
Launch Site 3	IIA					58-09N 60-27E
Launch Site 4	IIB					58-11N 60-34E
Launch Site 5	IIB					58-13N 60-54E
Launch Site 7	IIIA					58-14N 60-40E
Launch Site 8	IIIA					58-13N 60-49E
Launch Site 9	IID					58-05N 60-12E
Launch Site 10	IID					58-08N 60-32E

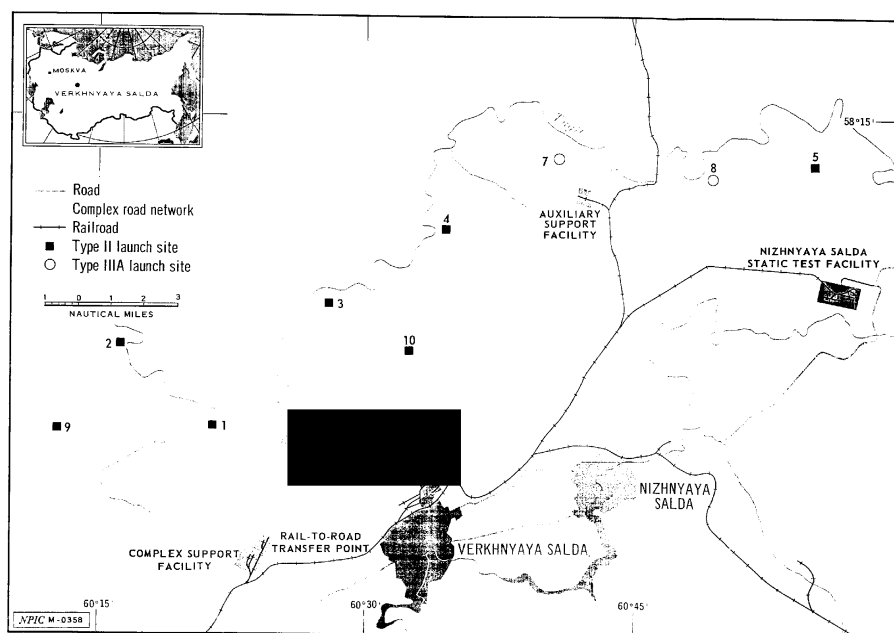
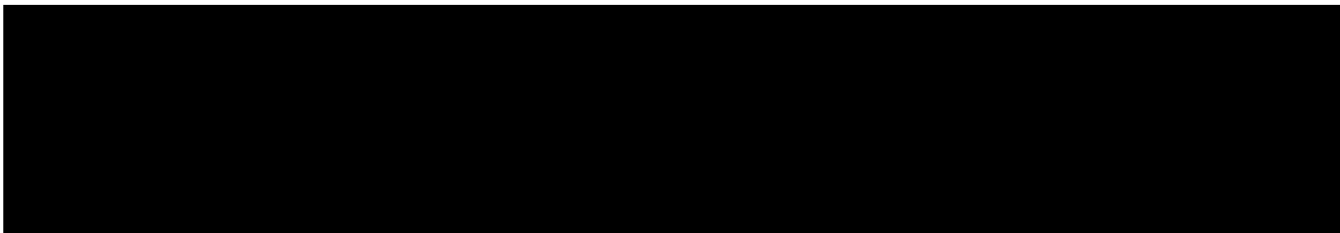


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF VERKHNYAYA SALDA ICBM COMPLEX.

REFERENCES

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DOCUMENT

1. NPIC. TCS-80896/66, *Verkhnyaya Salda ICBM Complex USSR*, Sep 66 (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF)

MAPS OR CHARTS

US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0156-13IIL, 3d ed, Jun 63, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENTS

CIA. C-DI5-82,972

CIA. C-DI7-84,251

NPIC PROJECT

11210/66 (partial answer)

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